

10/31/2003 House Passes Reauthorization of Federal Aviation Administration

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Legislation Includes \$20.7 Million to Improve Kansas Airports

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today supported House passage of aviation legislation that includes a number of provisions important to the future of Kansas air service. The legislation reauthorizes the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the next four years and includes additional funding for smaller airports and other provisions to keep commercial air service available in Kansas.

"Maintaining air service in our rural communities is important for their economic future," Moran said. "This legislation funds important air service programs at higher levels, creating new jobs and new opportunities for airports across the state."

The FAA reauthorization includes provisions Moran introduced to modernize the Essential Air Service (EAS) Program, which will help maintain commercial air service to rural communities. Annual funding for the program will be increased to \$127 million - an increase of \$14 million. Also, local officials will have more control over how they can use their EAS funding to better tailor local air service to their individual needs. Six Kansas airports are currently served by the EAS program - Dodge City, Garden City, Great Bend, Hays, Liberal and Salina.

"With the reauthorization of Essential Air Service, Garden City Regional Airport customers can be assured that communities like ours will remain connected to the world," Bob Halloran, City Manager of Garden City, said. "We are excited about the opportunity provided to work with other western Kansas communities in creating alternative air transportation options to best meet the needs of our business and leisure travelers. We are particularly grateful for our own Congressman Moran's leadership on this issue as a member of the Transportation Committee and the Aviation Subcommittee."

The legislation also increases funding for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP). AIP is essential in maintaining airports - both large and small - by providing grant funding for maintenance and improvements. Funding levels are determined by an FAA formula that considers passenger boardings and airport needs. Twenty-six airports in the First District will receive \$20.7 million in AIP funding over the next four years. The list of those airports is attached.

In addition, the legislation increases funding for the contract tower program, which helps improve safety by assisting smaller airports in meeting their air traffic control needs.

Moran is a member of the U.S. House Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation. This legislation now goes to the Senate.

The following First District airports will receive AIP funding:

City	Airport	FY04-FY07
		AIP Entitlement (total)
Garden City	Garden City Regional	\$4,000,000
Salina	Salina Municipal	\$4,000,000
Ulysses	Ulysses	\$600,000
Syracuse	Syracuse-Hamilton County Municipal	\$600,000

Russell	Russell Municipal	\$600,000
Pratt	Pratt Industrial	\$600,000
Phillipsburg	Phillipsburg Municipal	\$600,000
Oakley	Oakley Municipal	\$600,000
McPherson	McPherson	\$600,000
Lyons	Lyons-Rice County Municipal	\$600,000
Liberal	Liberal Municipal	\$600,000
Larned	Larned-Pawnee County	\$600,000
Johnson City	Stanton County Municipal	\$600,000
Hutchinson	Hutchinson Municipal	\$600,000
Hays	Hays Municipal	\$600,000
Great Bend	Great Bend Municipal	\$600,000
Goodland	Renner Field/Goodland Municipal	\$600,000
Emporia	Emporia Municipal	\$600,000
Dodge City	Dodge City Regional	\$600,000
Concordia	Blosser Municipal	\$600,000
Oberlin	Oberlin Municipal	\$485,720
Junction City	Freeman Field	\$446,160
Abilene	Abilene Municipal	\$365,516
Meade	Meade Municipal	\$316,000
Wakeeney	Trego-Wakeeney	\$225,720
Marysville	Marysville Municipal	\$98,092

Totals:	26 airports	\$20,737,208
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